

LIFE Programme in Ireland



Facts and figures

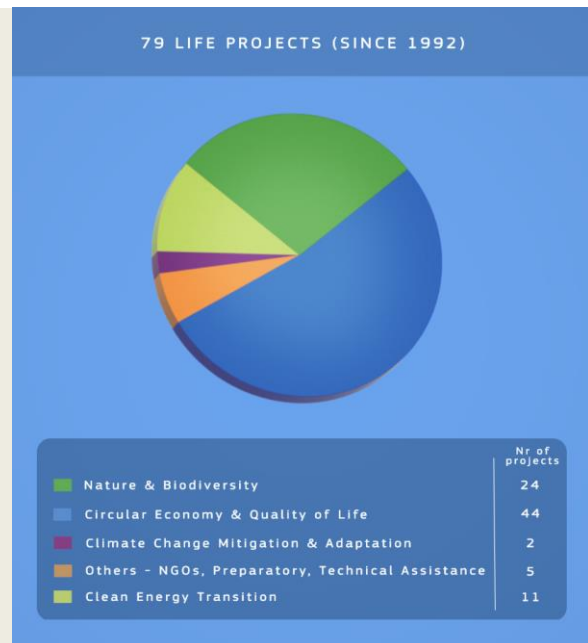
The LIFE Programme has funded 79 projects in Ireland over 54 coordinating beneficiaries with total project costs of €243m, of which the EU contributed €117m.

The LIFE Programme is the EU's funding instrument for environment and climate action. It has been running since 1992 and has co-financed more than 5500 projects across the EU and in third countries, mobilising more over €12 billion and contributing with more than €5 billion to the protection of the environment and climate. The LIFE programme contributes fully to the objectives and targets of the European Green Deal.

The budget for the period 2021–2027 is set at €5.4 billion.

The following sub-programmes are covered (*):

- **Nature and biodiversity**
- **Circular economy and quality of life**
- **Climate change mitigation and adaptation**
- **Clean energy transition** (first call for projects in 2021) (**)



INVESTMENT IN LIFE PROJECTS IN IRELAND (€ million)

	TOTAL INVESTMENT	EU CONTRIBUTION
ALL LIFE projects	243	117
Nature & Biodiversity	95	58
Circular Economy & Quality of Life	109	41
Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation	33	13
Others - NGOs, Preparatory, Technical Assistance	2	0.9
Clean Energy Transition	4	4

(*) Past and closed projects are designated in this document with the new LIFE programme 2021-2027 nomenclature

(**) The new CET sub-programme comprises mostly multi-country projects and all participants are included in the figures



LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

The LIFE Climate change mitigation and adaptation strand will support actions which help implement the 2030 energy and climate policy framework and meet the European Union's commitments under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Projects under this strand will contribute to climate neutral and resilient economy.

Strategic Integrated Climate Projects (SIP), will implement, on a regional, multi-regional, national or transnational scale, climate strategies or action plans developed by Member States' authorities and required by specific climate or relevant energy legislation or policy of the Union. These projects will also ensure that stakeholders are involved and promote coordination with and mobilisation of at least one other Union, national or private funding source.

To date, the Climate Change Mitigation strand has financed one project in Ireland. The LIFE Farm4More project aims to deliver climate change mitigating impacts for the livestock farming by implementing an economically viable organic animal feed and a biochar production strategy.

One Strategic Integrated Project has been co-funded in Ireland. The LIFE IP Peatlands and People's project's objectives are described below.

The total investment for these project amounts to €33 million, of which the EU is contributing €13 million.



Restoring Ireland's peatlands to their former glory (LIFE IP Peatlands and People) LIFE19 IPC/IE/000007

Peatlands make up over 20% of Ireland's land area. They have many benefits such as locking away carbon and keeping it out of the atmosphere. In the past, Ireland's peatlands were harvested mainly for fuel: almost half of the original area has been lost as a result. Of those that remain, around 80% have been damaged. Ireland's goal is to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 through its Climate Action Plan 2019. This Integrated Project will see state-owned enterprise *Bord na Móna* helping to bring the plan to fruition. It will restore almost 10 000 hectares of peatlands – an area around eight times as big as London Heathrow Airport. *Bord na Móna* will also develop a model to encourage economic growth in the Irish Midlands through training, job creation and new value chains. Also, a discovery centre will be set up to help change people's perceptions of peat, from a fuel source to an important natural asset.

[Project summary](#)



LIFE Clean Energy Transition

Building on the Intelligent Energy Europe (2003-2013) and Horizon 2020 Energy Efficiency (2014-2020) programmes, the LIFE Clean Energy Transition sub-programme continues to support the delivery of EU policies in the field of sustainable energy. In particular, it aims at facilitating the transition towards an energy-efficient, renewable energy-based, climate-neutral and -resilient economy across Europe.

The LIFE Clean Energy Transition sub-programme supports projects in the following five areas of intervention:

- 1) Building a national, regional and local policy framework supporting the clean energy transition;
- 2) Accelerating technology roll-out, digitalisation, new services and business models and enhancement of the related professional skills on the market;
- 3) Attracting private finance for sustainable energy;
- 4) Supporting the development of local and regional investment projects;
- 5) Involving and empowering citizens in the clean energy transition

To date, Ireland coordinates two projects under this sub-programme. The total budget for these projects amounts to €2.3 million, of which the EU contributes €2 million.

The LEAP project will create three Local Energy Agencies in Ireland to support integrated home renovation services in peripheral regions. These will address challenges, such as dispersed and older housing and reliance on oil and solid fuels, to help achieve Ireland's target of retrofitting 500 000 homes by 2030. The Local Energy Agencies will help homeowners understand their options to ensure effective investments and work with local contractors on a cohesive home renovation service.

The BUSI2030 project team will update the Irish BUILD UP Skills Platform to upskill building workers. This reflects policy and sectoral changes since 2013, including digitisation, circular economy, and climate change targets. The project brings together expertise to define education and training needs now and in the future. A key focus of the revitalised platform will be financing and investment to deliver the skills required by the construction sector to provide energy-efficient renovated and new-build houses.

Ireland also participates in other 9 CET projects, as follows: The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland in project OdysseyMure fit-4-55 and CAEPBD6; Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency in project REGIO1ST; Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest and Tipperary Energy Agency Limited in project IN-PLAN; Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative Company in project OSR-Coop; Tipperary Energy Agency Limited in projects OwnYourSECAP; Waide Strategic Efficiency Europe in project easySRI; BRAINBOX AI in project Smart Square; and Terra Geoserv in project GEOBOOST.

This represents a total budget for Ireland of €1.9 million, of which the EU is contributing 95%.



LIFE Nature and Biodiversity

The Nature and Biodiversity strand includes support for standard action projects for developing, applying and promoting best practice in relation to nature and biodiversity, as well as “Strategic Nature Projects” (SNAP). These new projects support the achievement of Union nature and biodiversity objectives by implementing coherent programmes of action in Member States in order to mainstream those objectives and priorities into other policies and financing instruments, including through coordinated implementation of the prioritised action frameworks adopted pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC.

To date, the LIFE Nature and Biodiversity component has co-financed 24 projects in Ireland. These represent a total investment of €95 million, of which €58 million has been contributed by the EU.

Completed projects mostly concentrated on the conservation, management and restoration of habitats, with a specific emphasis on active blanket bogs, raised bogs, farmland, various types of woodland, and priority terrestrial habitats. As a result of some projects, the conditions for Atlantic salmon, sea lamprey, brook lamprey, hen harrier, merlin, European otter, and freshwater mussel were improved by connecting or restoring their habitats. One project made a significant contribution to halting the loss of biodiversity in Ireland by developing and demonstrating effective methods for controlling highly-invasive plant species, combined with a programme of stakeholder commitment, leading to policy development and dissemination. Another project developed a new model for the sustainable agricultural management of the priority habitats of the Burren. Project beneficiaries comprised mainly NGOs, IRD Duhallow, parks and national authorities, and a semi-state fisheries organisation.

There are three ongoing projects in Ireland. Projects seek to;; improve the conservation status of the corncrake in Ireland by the enhancement of the SPA network and surrounding farmland; protect; restore Ireland’s network of machair systems; and improve ecosystem resilience and reduce nutrient pollution in Lough Carra.

One Strategic Nature Project is ongoing in Ireland. The LIFE-IP PAF Wild Atlantic Nature project’s objectives are described below.



Protecting and restoring Ireland's blanket bogs (LIFE-IP PAF Wild Atlantic Nature) **LIFE18 IPE/IE/000002**

Drainage, peat cutting, fires and overgrazing have left blanket bogs in the Northern and Western Region of Ireland in an unfavourable condition.

LIFE-IP PAF Wild Atlantic Nature will protect and restore blanket bogs in 24 of the country's [Natura 2000](#) sites. Encroaching trees and shrubs will be removed, drains blocked to raise water levels and fire management measures improved. The project will increase awareness of blanket bogs' ecological value and importance for climate change mitigation, while developing a sense of community ownership of local peatlands. It will also secure the support of landowners, land users and other local stakeholders for management plans which address the multiple threats facing these sites.

[Project summary](#)



Circular Economy and Quality of Life

Actions supported under the Circular economy and quality of life strand will help in reaching major EU policy objectives such as the transition to a circular economy, as well as protecting and improving the quality of the environment and life. Under this strand, Strategic Integrated Projects (SIP), will implement, on a regional, multi-regional, national or transnational scale, environmental or climate strategies or action plans developed by Member States' authorities and required by specific environmental, climate or relevant energy legislation or policy of the Union. These projects will also ensure that stakeholders are involved and promoting coordination with and mobilisation of at least one other Union, national or private funding source.

This strand [formerly LIFE Environment and Resource Efficiency and Environmental Governance and Information] has co-financed 44 projects in Ireland thus far, representing a total investment of €109 million, of which €41 million has been provided by the EU.

Completed projects mainly targeted integrated environmental management, clean technologies, sensitive area management (coastal areas), end-of-life vehicle waste, urban design, and water quality improvement/monitoring. One project specifically aimed to strengthen the integration of tourism and natural heritage, and to reconcile tourism development with the conservation of biodiversity in the Burren region. Another project transformed an industrial space into a collaborative learning space. Local authorities and SMEs were the main beneficiaries.

There are four ongoing projects in Ireland. The Whey2LIFE project aims at addressing the environmental impacts of cheese production by overcoming the main barrier currently limiting the appropriate valorisation of whey permeate. The Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE project seeks to improve water quality in County Dublin and beyond by making it quicker and cheaper to carry out domestic misconnection inspections using a novel GIS-based approach, and by installing 5 Integrated Constructed Wetlands. The key goal of LIFE EMERALD is to strengthen air quality management in Ireland, to ensure effective implementation of the two complementary EU Ambient Air Quality Directives (AAQD) and to help implement the European Green Deal. The most recently funded PLASTIC2WAXLIFE project will demonstrate an innovative chemical recycling process based on pyrolysis for converting waste plastics into sustainable wax, thus preventing landfilling and incineration.

One Strategic Integrated Project has been co-funded in Ireland under this strand. The Waters of LIFE IP project's objectives are described below.



Restoring water quality and nature in Ireland's rivers and lakes (LIFE-IP Waters of Life) LIFE18 IPE/IE/000003

Ireland's river basin management plan for 2018-2021 sets out measures for protecting and improving the status of the country's freshwater bodies.

LIFE-IP Waters of Life will act as a river basin-scale demonstration project, testing the effectiveness of the plan's 'best practice' measures across a range of landscapes. The project will encourage local communities and landowners to get involved in developing management actions for farm- and forestland. It will also build synergies between measures addressing water quality and biodiversity, and enhance public appreciation of high-status water bodies and their catchment areas.

[Project summary](#)

Want to know more about LIFE?

- Visit the [LIFE website](#) and [LIFE project database](#)

- Follow the LIFE programme on social media:



- Sign up to the [LIFE Programme](#) and [CINEA Clean Energy](#) Newsletters

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Ongoing LIFE Nature & Biodiversity projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Improving Corncrake conservation status in Ireland by the enhancement of the SPA network and surrounding farmland	LIFE18 NAT/IE/000090	Corncrake LIFE	https://www.corncrakelife.ie/	01/2020 -> 12/2024
Improving ecosystem resilience & reducing nutrient pollution in Lough Carra, one of Europe's premier SAC marl lakes	LIFE20 NAT/IE/000172	Lough Carra	N/A	09/2021 ->09/2026
Protecting and restoring Ireland's network of machair systems and associated breeding wader and pollinator communities	LIFE20 NAT/IE/000263	LIFE On Machair	N/A	02/2022 ->01/2028
Towards implementing the PAF for Ireland by protecting and restoring Ireland's blanket bog Natura Network along Atlantic seaboard	LIFE18 IPE/IE/000002	LIFE IP PAF-WILD ATLANTIC NATURE	https://www.wildatlanticnature.ie/	01/2020 -> 12/2028

Ongoing LIFE Circular Economy and Quality of Life projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
To demonstrate the effectiveness of stormwater improvement options in urban areas using proven decision making tools	LIFE17 ENV/IE/000281	Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE	https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/environment/dublin-urban-rivers-life/	06/2018-> 06/2024
Extension of whey permeate value chain through industrial symbiosis to produce a valuable non-GMO yeast protein	LIFE18 ENV/IE/0000084	Whey2LIFE	http://www.whey2life.ie	07/2019-> 12/2024
Demonstrating a scalable modular pyrolysis process to give new life to waste plastics while enabling local production of sustainable wax	LIFE21-ENV-IE- PLASTIC2WAXLIFE/ 101074258	PLASTIC2WAXLIFE	N/A	08/2022-> 07/2024
Emissions Modelling and FoRecasting of Air in IreLand	LIFE19 GIE/IE/001101	LIFE EMERALD	https://www.epa.ie/environment-and-you/air/life-emerald/	01/2021 -> 12/2023
Protect and restore high ecological status waterbodies in Ireland	LIFE18 IPE/IE/000003	LIFE-IP Waters of Life	N/A	11/2019 -> 12/2028

Ongoing LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
LIFE Farm4More - Future Agricultural Management for multiple outputs on climate and rural development	LIFE18 CCM/IE/001195	LIFE Farm4More	http://www.farm4more.eu/	07/2019 -> 06/2023

LIFE IP Peatlands and People - Ireland's Climate Action Catalyst	LIFE19 IPC/IE/000007	LIFE IP Peatlands and People	https://peatlandsandpeople.ie/	10/2020 -> 09/2027
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Ongoing LIFE Clean Energy Transition projects				
Project Title	Project Number	Project acronym and link to the online summary	Website	Project duration
Build Up Skills Ireland 2030	LIFE21-CET-BUILDSKILLS-BUSI2030/101075961	BUSI2030	N/A	10/2022 -> 03/2024
Local Energy Agencies for Peripheral Regions	LIFE21-CET-HOMERENO-LEAP/101077163	LEAP	N/A	11/2022 -> 04/2026
6th Concerted Action supporting Member States and participating countries in implementing the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive	LIFE21-CET-CA-CAEPBD6/101102078	CAEPBD6	N/A	11/2022 -> 10/2027
Odyssee-MURE – Monitoring the Energy Efficiency Pillar for Climate Neutrality	LIFE21-CET-POLICY-OdysseeMure fit-4-55/101075902	OdysseeMure fit-4-55	N/A	10/2022 -> 03/2025
Integrated Energy, Climate and Spatial planning	LIFE21-CET-LOCAL-IN-PLAN/101076428	IN-PLAN	N/A	10/2022 -> 03/2026
Bringing local and regional municipalities towards owning their SECAPs	LIFE21-CET-LOCAL-OwnYourSECAP/101077109	OwnYourSECAP	N/A	09/2022 -> 08/2025
Smart Tools for Smart Buildings: Enhancing the intelligence of buildings in Europe	LIFE21-CET-SMARTREADY-SMART SQUARE/101077241	SMART SQUARE	N/A	10/2022 -> 09/2025
Improving and demonstrating the potential of SRI	LIFE21-CET-SMARTREADY-easySRI/101077169	easySRI	N/A	11/2022 -> 10/2025
One Stop Renovation Co-op	LIFE21-CET-HOMERENO-OSR-Coop/101076669	OSR-Coop	N/A	10/2022 -> 09/2025
Implementing the Energy Efficiency First Principle in Regional Planning	LIFE21-CET-LOCAL-REGIO1ST/101076088	REGIO1ST	N/A	11/2022 -> 10/2025
Boosting geothermal heat pumps to mainstream cost-effective and efficient renewable heating and cooling in buildings	LIFE21-CET-POLICY-GEOBOOST/101077613	GEOBOOST	N/A	01/2023 -> 12/2025